

1041 North 475 East
Chesterton, IN 46304
August 26, 1999

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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Food and Drug Administration:

This letter refers to docket numbers 98N-1230, 96P-0418, and 97P-0197.

I believe that the FDA should prohibit forced molting in this country as was done in Great Britain in 1987. In addition to being cruel and immoral, it causes disease. Forced molting is a major cause of *Salmonella* poisoning. USDA studies reported in *Poultry Science* show forced molting in combination with a *Salmonella* infection create an actual disease state in the alimentary tract of tested hens. Prolonged food deprivation wrecks the hens' immune system, making them prey to the poisonous bacteria that infest the packed confinement buildings in which they lay their eggs.

The FDA should do more than simply put bacteria warning labels on egg cartons and regulate their temperature. It is my understanding that the FDA has jurisdiction to ban farm practices that injure human health, and forced molting is a one that certainly does injure human health.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

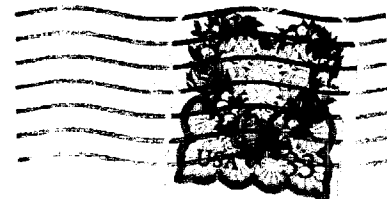


Stephanie Schueler, P.E.

96P-0418

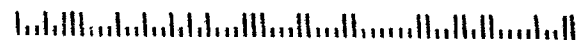
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THE SCHUELERS
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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
CROSS REFERENCE SHEET

Docket Number/Item Code: 98N-1230/C458

See Docket Number/Item Code: 97P-0197/C459
96P-0418/C458